Welfare of poor people in Punjab

*248. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new schemes and programmes for the welfare of the poor people in the country particularly in the State of Punjab on the pattern of 20 Point Programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to remove poverty in the rural backward areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for the welfare of the poor. This is being implemented throughout the country including the State of Punjab as a Central Scheme from the 15th of August, 1995. The National Social Assistance Programme has three components which are targetted to people living below the poverty line viz.

(i) The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS): Under this scheme an Old Age Pension of Rs.75 per month is provided per beneficiary. It is applicable to persons aged 65 years and above.

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under this scheme a lump sum family benefit is provided to the bereaved household in case of the death of the primary bread winner. An amount of Rs.5000 is provided in case of death due to natural cause and Rs.10,000 in case of accidental death. This scheme is applicable to eligible persons in the age group 18 to 64.

(iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS): Under this scheme there is a provision of Rs.300 per pregnancy for pre-natal and post-natal maternity care upto the first two live births to women belonging to poor households. This benefit is provided to eligible women of 19 years and above.

The 20 Point Programme is not a scheme per se but a monitoring mechanism under which various schemes for eradication of poverty and improvement in the quality of life, especially of the weaker sections, is monitored by the Department of Programme Implementation. The 20 Point Programme was initiated with the objective of giving a thrust and focus to these schemes, designed for the well being of the poor and weaker sections. At present 119 items are monitored under the 20 major heads of these 65 items are monitored quantitatively and 54 items qualitatively.

(d) The Government is committed to the eradication of rural poverty throughout the country, (including the backward areas/districts defined as those which have a concentration of the poor and the under employed) through self employment and wage earning programmes. The three major Centrally Sponsored poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in the rural areas of the country are (i) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); and (iii) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). While the IRDP is a self employment programme the JRY and EAS are wage employment programmes. Both under the IRDP and JRY funds are allocated to the States on the basis of proportion of rural poor in the State to the total rural poor in the country.

The Second Stream of JRY namely the Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was introduced in 1993-94 in 120 backward districts of the country where there is a concentration of unemployment and under-employment. The selection of 120 backward districts has been made on the basis of index of backwardness formulated on the proportion of rural SC/ST population in a district to total SC/ST population in the State and inverse of per capita production of agricultural workers in equal weights.

The Employment Assurance Scheme was launched on the 2nd October, 1993 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in the drought prone areas, desert areas, tribal areas and hill areas in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. At present it covers 2446 blocks in all the States and UTs

excluding Goa, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry. These additional blocks include new DPAP/DDP blocks. Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) blocks having a larger concentration of tribals and the flood prone areas of the country.

Legislation for agricultural and construction workers

*249. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI ANANTRAY
DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal before Government for enacting a Central Law for agricultural and construction workers;

(b) if so,what is the stage of consideration of this proposal;

(c) whether State Governments are being consulted in this regard;

(d) whether Government have completed its study of the laws of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra in this regard;

(e) what is the response of Government in this regard;

(f) whether the State Governments have protested against a Central Law; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Proposals for Central legislations for agricultural and construction workers are at an advanced stage of consideration.

(c) to (e) Wide ranging consultations have been held with the State Governments to evolve a consensus and while formulating the proposals, due note is being taken of the State legislations, wherever they are existing.

(f) and (g) While there has been some difference of opinion on the Central legislation for agricultural workers among the States mainly on account of widely varying agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions and administrative systems/practices, there is a general consensus in favour of taking up this legislation. It is proposed to build in sufficient flexibility to suit different local requirements and needs.

स्वैच्छिक संगठनों में श्रमिकों का शोषण

*250. श्री कामेश्वर पासवान: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त स्वैच्छिक संगठनों में श्रमिकों को शोषण ज्यादा हो रहा है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि ये संगठन अपने कर्मचारियों को निर्धारित वेतनमान नहीं देते हैं और जब चाहे उन्हें निकाल भी देते हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है;

(घ) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि स्वच्छ सार्वजनिक शौचालयों के निर्माणरत सुलभ इंटरनेशनल, गांधी मैदान, पटना अपने कर्मचारियों को बड़े शहरों में भी मात्र 600 रुपये प्रति माह वेतन देता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा): (क) से (ग) ऐसी सूचना मिली है कि कुछ स्वयंसेवी संगठन अपने कर्मचारियों के लिए नियमित वेतनमान नहीं रखते हैं। जब कभी कानून के उल्लंघन के बारे में सूचित किया जाता है, अपराधियों के विरुद्ध कानून के अनुसार आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(घ) और (ङ) बिहार सरकार से सूचना मिली है कि सुलभ इंटरनेशनल, पटना के कर्मचारियों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी की अदायगी न किये जाने के बारे में वहां कोई विवाद नहीं रहा है।

पर्यावरण और वृक्षारोपण को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए योजना आवंटन

*251. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आठवीं तथा नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान पर्यावरण एवं वृक्षारोपण हेतु कोई विशेष निधियां आवंटित की गई हैं/किए जाने का विचार है

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या इसके लिये राज्यों को केन्द्र की ओर से योजना आयोग द्वारा कोई विशेष कार्यक्रम भेजे गए हैं?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गमांग): (क) और (ख) वानिकी, वन्यजीवन, पर्यावरण एवं पारिस्थितिकी के तहत आठवीं